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Interviewer: Larry Massie

Attendees: Mike Gergely, Larry Massie, Tom Beaver (via teleconference)

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Larry Well, Mike, thank you for taking this time. So far in the interviews that I've been involved in, I've learned all kinds of different and interesting things. I read the interview you did with Phil Mason and learned about you and, as you know, the purpose of these later interviews are to kind of focus on John's spiritual development. And from what I pick up so far, almost his entire life was a search, and he became involved in a number of different churches, beliefs, and it was ever expanding. And I think in creating this spiritual edifice that he did, he took pieces out of all various things and made his own individual kind of belief. Would you agree with that?

Mike Yes, I would. The search that John, I believe, was on was a search of his personal integrity and his desire to fulfill a mission that he believed that he was born into.

This mission to be fulfilled was not a material mission, the accumulation of assets. He always believed he was a guardian of the assets that he was so phenomenally able to acquire, but that the assets were necessary to essentially accomplish what he believed to be his mission—which he felt, in my humble opinion, was a spiritual journey from the time of his early youth until the time of his passing to the other side.

I know that the stories and the accounts with respect to John's brush with influenza—pandemic flu—his commitment to Jesus, to the Creator, however one talks about that, were about his commitment was to the Almighty.

His life was one that certainly involved the physical because he needed to be. Inside it was always, in my opinion, helping to bring the human race closer to the divine. So that the difficulties with respect to humanity on the physical plane, shelter, food, medical care, all the physical themes—although at no time could he ever in any way minimize the efforts with respect to working towards any particular cause, whether it was a cure for disease or whether it's food or shelter or humanitarian—but I think underneath he felt that if the planet and if humanity was brought together on a spiritual plane, these other things would take care of themselves, because if there was love in this world and we are all one, then how are we going to then have violence? How are we going to have fear? How are we going to let people go hungry? How are we going to let people be without physical necessities?

And he wasn't talking about, you know, any particular political system. That's the other thing. He was talking about man's humanity within himself, his desire, so that's sort of a little broad overview.

Larry That's very good because I want to get your perceptions because you knew him starting what, in 19—the late 70's?

Mike 1980, the summer of 1980. I believe it was either '79 or '80, but I'll just say '80. It's all in my mind and my heart but I was—let's say 1980, I was 41—and I received an invitation to have dinner with John at the Park Club. I had not met John before that. I had been to one baseball game when I was in undergraduate school and—

Larry Did you have any idea what he wanted you for?

Mike No, no. Come to have dinner with John.

Larry Did you think it was sort of law business?

Mike I have to tell you that the invitation came from my deceased partner's widow who was Rhea Fetzer's medical doctor. I guess there were some discussions as to what John was thinking in terms of an attorney - but at that time I just got the invitation.

Larry Okay.

Mike And the dinner was set for seven o'clock. I think I was playing golf that afternoon. You know, that was one of my best rounds. So anyway, I met with John. It was instantaneous friendship. It was John and Mike, and he was 79 years of age at that time.

We had a wonderful dinner, interesting discussion. There was never a discussion about anything in particular that I can remember. It was a discussion about just getting to know each other, and we were very close immediately, quite frankly.

And as we were leaving he said, "Will you come to my house tomorrow for lunch?" And I said yes and went to lunch the next day, and his secretary Carolyn brought in a couple of hamburgers. I do remember when I saw John take the hamburger, he would take a little bite of it and put it down. He was so respectful with respect to that food. It was, you know, like he appreciated everything.

We just began engaging in a discussion, and as we were leaving he said, "Now you are going to be my personal lawyer." And essentially we really became very close friends. We became like family.

Larry As you know, John felt strongly about instinctual feelings about people, intuition I believe he called it, and then later on became an inner voice, but do you think he was just getting to know you so he could use his intuition?

Mike I think, quite frankly, that he just made a decision. I've never tried to analyze why the decision was made. It was, "You're my lawyer and there'll be a lot of other people that will be involved. You'll oversee things as necessary as it goes along." And then, of course, as his Trustee—he appointed me as Attorney Trustee with respect to the Memorial Trust which is a position I still occupy. And it's been a journey for all of us.

It's hard to explain because this was never a job. I'm saying it's not a business thing. The point of it was that for all of us, this was a time when we were learning and sharing about the great mission, and we said yes, I said yes. I felt, and do feel now more than ever, the importance of this mission.

I'm not trying to say that it's some sort of—we're going to go out and save the world like some sort of a Messiah—I wouldn't want that impression. It is just the truth of the mission. It is the truth of the fact that we on this planet, for ourselves and our children and our grandchildren, have got to come together as a human race.

And with respect to John and the Institute, the basis of this coming together is the fact of the recognition of the Creator. I'm not defending any particular religion, but a clear understanding that the physical is not the alpha and the omega. The physical is on one vibrational pattern and that vibrational pattern is around us—every material thing is held together by a vibration.

John said to me, a higher vibrational pattern is what we call the other side, and that's where the souls—I mean, that's what people call nirvana or heaven or whatever you want to call it. And the thing that I think that is so important, I think that Tom would be able to expand on this, John wanted us to also go on our own search. It was not a preaching thing with John

When John talked about The Hierarchy, John talked to me about the saints, Saint Michael the Archangel, talking about the fact of the God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—but the fact that he was talking about these is not some sort of something way out there, but as a reality with us today. We are surrounded by our—by those that are on the other side but really are with us.

John made all of us, I believe, look deeper into our own pathway. And, as John believed, when we found the source of all pathways are fed by the same sources as John's, so it was not exclusive. It was inclusive, inclusive of all but for good. That's the thing. He was looking at the goodness of humanity and the goodness of the human race.

When we were together with the Monday night group, for about five years every Monday starting at three o'clock, we were together, the seven or eight of us. There was never an agenda. It was like we'd get together, and before we would know it,

it would be six o'clock and we would then go out for dinner. And we started meeting first at—actually it was—at the beginning it was at WKZO.

Larry In his office?

Mike In his office, yes. So when I come to this facility, when I come to the Institute, to the grounds, I drive in. I can't believe it. I mean, I can remember in 1980 going to John's office. Well, my schedule—I was very busy—I'd try to schedule motion dates, but it seemed like every Monday I couldn't get opened up until three o'clock.

Larry Because you wanted to?

Mike I wanted to but it worked, and so I would go to John's office. I would go to the Broadcast House, three o'clock. I never told anybody I represented John. No one ever knew I even knew John Fetzer. It was between John and myself. I would come in to the Broadcast House. I would announce I'm here to see Mr. Fetzer, and the receptionist would call for Carolyn, and Carolyn would come down to get me, and I'd go to John's office and I would sit in the chair. It was myself, it was John behind the desk and myself in the chair, and that went on for about a year.

Larry Just you and him?

Mike Just he and I, and it was just a discussion, and there was no building. There was—the Fetzer Foundation at that time was not in any physical space. It was something that he was supporting. We talked about his dream and on occasion, he would read from the Course of Miracles.

Larry So it was metaphysical discussions?

Mike Metaphysical discussions, physical discussions—it was this dream, but the dream always centered around the fact that the human race has to be uplifted towards the Divine. That's one; and secondly, it was mission. It was not like you were born and had no destiny. How you pursued destiny was not whether you say yes to the destiny, but there was always a destiny. But there wasn't something that he could say, "Alright, now this week, Mike, I've got this written out." It never happened with myself or with the Monday night group. It was a flowing, a planting of seeds, a nurturing the seeds, and that's what's happening today. It went from we were meeting at his office, and then one day I was at his house. He said, "Well now, we've got an office over at the Comerica Bank building." We'd go over to the Comerica Bank building and there's a little office, the President's office and another office, so that's the beginning. That's the first physical location of the Institute. Then after that we went over to another building which was down the street, and it was on one floor. Then John selected this property, and there was a dowsing that was done with respect to the selection of this property. And I remember John calling me and saying, "Come on, let's go over and take a look at what's going on." So I'd meet him and we would drive over and John would open

the gate and we would then proceed to the location of where the building now is. There was just a cement floor at that time. He'd say. "Well, this is where this is going to go, and this is where this is going to go. I looked around and I thought, "You know, how did all this happen?" Well, it was because of the dream that was planted by John.

Larry Was this dream firmly in place when you first got to know him or did it evolve?

Mike I think that it evolved. I think it evolved significantly more when he met Jim Gordon, and he had information from Jim. But I don't have any doubt about the fact that service to the Almighty was really crystallized when John was 17 years of age in 1918. And it stayed with John—in fact if you read his address when he was graduating, *The Faith of our Fathers* is clearly set forth.

Larry I have read that.

Mike The things that he talked about, *Faith of our Fathers*, is absolutely astounding. And so I believe that there was always a belief and always a mission, and that mission was to serve the Almighty. That mission was to bring—the best way I can describe it is: right now on this—where we are in terms of the human race—in a certain way it's a little bit like walking through sand holding weights. We're trudging, and we have to get higher, get lighter, get more to understand who we really are—spiritual beings. It's like kind of dropping the weights, getting out of the sand. It's like moving, moving quicker, and it's kind of like a little bit of an analogy, but yes.

Larry Would those weights be like dogma?

Mike No. I don't ever remember John ever talking about dogma. That's a good question. He never addressed with myself in any way the question of dogma. I think that what he's talking about with respect to the heaviness is that in order to release the weights, that the effect of love and the effect of our humanness and our human compassion and understanding and our sympathy—that's what has to be built as opposed to greed or as opposed to power, as opposed to these things that contribute to the conflicts with respect to humanity. In other words, I never really—it's a good question and as I think about it, I don't ever remember John specifically talking about dogma.

Larry See, what I'm wondering about—did he ever discuss the fact that the differences in various religions caused more world war and trouble?

Mike He never said that. I never heard him say that.

Larry Yeah, I'm wondering if that entered into his thinking.

Mike That, I don't know the answer to that question. I can only say that I have not in my discussions with John in all the time I've spent with John—I don't know what

would be in his mind, but when he talked about the spirituality of man, he was talking basically about the questions of love and the questions of—he didn't go into what would be in one particular faith or in another particular faith literally, because, in my opinion, he would've felt that love would overcome any of that. That it would be obvious if you're born in a particular country and you had a particular background and you had a particular historical faith, and someone else is born in another country they might have a difference of faith, etc. John would recognize that, but his recognition of that is that all must respect the others. Really that comes from love and so—and if there is the notion that there was exclusivity, you know, the thing that's missing is the fact that there is no love there.

Larry In other words, there is more than one way to get to heaven, or whatever you want to call it?

Mike Yes, I don't think John ever had any particular, let's say, formula to say this is the particular dogma that you follow through to get to nirvana or heaven or whatever terminology he wants to use. That really never came into discussion, quite frankly. The essence that I see and remember with John is that the conversations that centered around what we were doing, conversations that had to do with how do we get to the people of this planet? How—we're starting out with our own small organization. How do we get people on to understand to love each other, love and kindness with each other? For example, the Monday night group. We had Sister Elizabeth Reis, who was a Roman Catholic nun at Nazareth, and she taught the Mind Control course that we all took. Tom, are you there? Hello, Tom?

Tom Yeah, I'm here. So Mike, you took Silva Mind Control?

Mike Yes, we all did.

Tom Can you talk about that because we don't have anybody on record talking about when you guys all took Silva Mind Control.

Mike: Yes.

Tom: Just whatever you recall about that.

Mike: We would complete Monday night with a great invocation. John loved it. The meeting started, closed ranks, people were calling the light of the Holy Spirit, we'd meditate, and then do the discussions. Now to answer Tom's question. So John wanted all of us to have some familiarity with some different aspects of what Sister Elizabeth Reis was about. So we went up to Nazareth College on a number of occasions. We went into the chapel, and, in fact, I think Jim Gordon was with us when we went up to the second floor chapel and meditated there. Sister Elizabeth Reis was teaching the Silva Mind Control course. She called it Silva Mind Education because that's what it was, mind education. We would all go there and then we would participate with respect to understanding the various levels of

consciousness and the subconscious and how to meditate. We went through a number of experiences involving healing experiences. It was a number of—we went through the full course, you might say, and we also then participated in what was called a Listening Course that Sister Elizabeth had taken to understand how to listen and how to respond to listening. We spent quite a bit of time in Nazareth College with Sister Elizabeth Reis and with John, and so that was part of it.

Larry So was that basically mind over body, or was it using your mind to accomplish more of your goals?

Tom It was psychic development, Mike.

Mike I can remember some very dynamic experiences. I can very specifically remember some very interesting things that went on in that class. But I think when it came down to it, we all began to understand, first of all, that John wanted us to understand the mind is like a great computer. Everything that you learned, everything that you've seen, everything that you've touched, is in your mind. So it was those kind of things that went on as far as that was concerned.

Tom What was the listening class like? Nobody's ever talked about that either. Can you remember specifics about that?

Mike Yeah, because John wanted us to know—I shouldn't say what he wanted, but let me just surmise that as we were going to proceed with respect to the things that we were doing and John is envisioning that we were going to be doing, listening would be an extremely important aspect of our moving forward with respect to the mission. And what would be a class on listening? There became exercises with respect to a listener and a receiver and a responder that would be the receiver. So the listening class—so we went through some exercises. The first exercise was that someone would say, "Oh, this is happening and this is what's going on." And the listener would say, "Oh, tell me more about that. Why is that happening?" So in other words, feedback so that the person who is speaking honestly can feel that the person that he's speaking not to but with is truly interested in what that person is saying, and feedback then draws out from that person. "You're having a bad day?" "Yeah, I'm having a bad day." "Hey, what's going on?" "Well, I went down to the shop or I did this." "What happened down there?" "Well, I did this. "Gee, that was rough. Is there any way you can work on that?" "Gee, I don't know." Empathy, understanding—the interesting thing about all of that was that there will always be a point in time when the person that was originally the speaker senses and will say, "I've been doing so darned much talking, how was your day today?" And then the speaker becomes the listener and then before you know it, they find a really good conversation and they've been able to accomplish something.

Tom It was Sister Elizabeth's class, wasn't it? She put it on?

Mike Oh yes, she put it on. We had a number of classes that she put on. That was just one of the classes, Listening, and Silva Mind Control. We went over to the chapel at Notre Dame—not Notre Dame, at Nazareth. We went to the second floor. There was, you know, a lot that went on there during the meditations. We had a lot of experiences. Tom can remember this and Bruce Fetzer will remember clearly, and this was after John had passed over and we were up at his office at the Memorial Trust. We were sitting there and the telephone rings. I get on the line—I think it's John's voice. I think it was somebody else. I thought it was a recording, and I don't remember what it was. "Who's calling here?" and the front desk said, "Nobody's calling. There's no line. That line is out." We all heard it. Do you remember that time? I heard it.

Tom Yep.

Mike I heard his voice. I thought it was a recording. I didn't want to go woo-woo. Let's just say a line called and we couldn't believe that—who was calling us in that office at that time. And when we called down—that line was not used, that line was dead, that line was not in service. Yeah, we picked it up and it was in service, and they said at the front desk no, there's no way that's in service. We're sitting here, that line is not in service in John's office, and we just got a call. No, you couldn't have gotten a call.

Larry Do you remember what he said?

Mike No, I'm sorry, I don't. That was so astounding that it was like—

Tom I think it was a recording of John—it was John's voice in a recording, but the point was nobody had called to the office, you know?

Mike Yeah, it was John's voice on a recording.

Tom But they had never put anybody through to John's office anymore because there wasn't anybody there anymore.

Mike Yeah, it was a recording. It was a recording. It was John's voice.

Larry In other words, when you get an answering device—it was that kind of a recording?

Mike Yeah, when it rang I picked it up and I remember—what in the world is this, and I think I handed it to Bruce or Rob or Tom. I don't remember, and we all looked at it and it was like this was a recording. It was John's voice. I remember that and then we called the operator and she said, "No, nobody's been on that line!" "We just picked it up." She said, "No, you didn't." "We don't want to scare anybody, but we did pick it up."

Larry That's interesting. You know, John was very concerned about coming out with his esoteric beliefs, coming out because he was guarding his business interests and everything.

Mike Yes.

Larry Can you recall how he broached some of these things when you were just getting to know him—like, for example, reincarnation?

Mike I really can't put a time on that. The best way that I can describe it is that from 1980 to '91 when John passed over, during that period of time that we would be discussing something, and then all of a sudden he would talk about reincarnation and then we would be discussing something, and all of a sudden we'd talk about something else. It was a continuous flow, at least as far as myself was concerned. I can't pick up any particular time when the idea of reincarnation had been surfaced as a specific idea. It was kind of—always just kind of flowed through a whole process.

Tom There's a question in my mind, too, that I wanted to ask you that's in the same regard. When Jim Gordon would do sessions with the Monday night group, did he go into past lives with you guys?

Mike Not that I remember, no.

Mike I don't think there's any question that John felt very strongly that there was a strong connection between all of us. Let me just put it that way.

Larry You mean all of you in the group?

Mike Yes, I don't think—and the thing that I think also when we really come down to it was that John felt that there was no such thing as coincidence. I don't think he feels that just anybody that has associated with or is in his building right now, including us right here, that we're here by any coincidence. John's view was that people had a destiny, and it's a question of saying yes to that destiny and a question—and are they going to want to be on board, and everybody's on board in a different way. So John didn't feel that things happen by chance. When he meets somebody, it's not by chance. There's reasons that people meet each other.

Larry And so that's why, you know, we don't have to stress the fact of reincarnation.

Mike Oh no, no, no.

Larry It's part of his story.

Mike Oh, absolutely.

Larry And before we leave reincarnation, somewhere along the line John came to believe that this was his last reincarnation. Did he ever talk to you about that? I'm wondering why he felt that.

Mike He felt that he had attempted to bring the—let's say the mission of the Institute—onto the planet on prior occasions and they were not successful, and he just said that this is going to be the final time he was going to try it, that this was going to be his final.

Larry I get the feeling that he was not evangelic about his particular beliefs. For example, did he try to get you to believe in reincarnation?

Mike Never. No, no. Let's say this one—that might give some understanding on the question—my understanding of the question. If we talked about things of a faith, for example, whether the Blessed Lady has visited at Medjugorje and whether that is a reality or not a reality. Now when John would talk about that he would say, "Well, why wouldn't she come? She's there. She wants to come. She can appear. She wants to." So in other words, it was not—so John has absolutely no question that the mother of Jesus is the Blessed Lady. If she wants to come from—if she wants to appear on the physical planet, she can do it any place she wants to. So he would open his mind to other people's beliefs.

Larry Was there anything that you witnessed that he closed his mind to, said that's bologna?

Mike No, I don't know. I can't remember. Again, that goes to a discussion of a particular dogmatic faith situation. I mean, you know, I would know, let's say, based upon all of my discussions with John in all the years I've spent with him, that if, in fact, someone said, "This is my faith and if you don't believe the way I believe you're going to go to hell," I know instinctively John would say, "Look, you can believe that if you want to. I'm not going to tell you not to believe that, but that's not the way it is." I'm sure there were many things that would be exclusionary because John was not exclusionary in his whole life. John was inclusionary of the entire planet; so when you talk about faith and you talk about love you're including the planet. Now does that mean to say that, therefore, he would approve every action of an individual? Absolutely not. I don't know that he would—he's not going to approve violence. I feel confident that that's not the kind of thing that John would abide in. It's kind of hard to really, you know, say, put a lot of bookmarks for want of a better word, with respect to John because there really were not bookmarks with respect to John.

Larry Okay, did John ever talk about UFOs with you?

Mike No, not that I—oh, on one occasion John was talking about—let me just see. Let me try to refresh my recollection here. John was talking about some scientist in either the Antarctic or Arctic that went down through the ice for—

Larry A core or something?

Mike A couple of miles, yeah, a core and discovered there something like a computer-type thing. It was almost a time machine type thing. I don't remember exactly what that was all about, but John talked about that and he didn't mention—I don't remember this discussion much of UFOs, quite frankly.

Tom That's a good story, Mike, if you could tell us—we're just trying to fill in the historical archive, and it would establish that he believed in these ancient—

Mike He certainly believed in the ancient situation with respect to Atlantis.

Larry You think that led him maybe into Egyptology as well, because there's some feelings that Atlantis influenced the ancient Egyptians?

Mike You're asking me to speculate. I would assume so, but I can't. After he met Jim Gordon, his spiritual discussions were really with Jim in terms of these things that you're talking about. So with respect to, let's say, after the Monday night group, he felt very strongly that he was really in a family environment with us and so, you know, in that environment he was just very relaxed.

Larry Very unbusiness-like.

Mike Exactly. For example, during dinner at our home the week after we had gone to a baseball game with my sons, Chris and Tim, my son Tim asked John, "Gee, Mr. Fetzer, how come you don't retire, you've got enough money?" And without even batting an eyelash, John turned to him and said, "This life is for service, and the next life is for rest." Interestingly enough, when the dedication of the Supreme Court building occurred in Lansing, Chief Justice Maura Corrigan quoted that as John Fetzer said, "This life is for service, and the next life is for rest." Now the reason I mentioned that is because this was the context in which John, at least to myself and basically to those that were going, he was planting the seeds in terms of where he was going. That was just totally what he believed, where we were going in the future was going to be dependent upon cultivating the seeds that were being planted, and the seeds that were being planted were not essentially seeds of doctrine but were essentially seeds that fell and that would plant the fruit of the spirit. In other words, seeds that would bring mankind together would be the fact that we're on the planet together, that there's love, understanding, compassion, forgiveness, and kindness. These are the things that are in every single human being which are blocked out by the other aspects that, unfortunately, have taken over too many times in the past. So how is that brought forth, and that's what the Global Gathering is all about. The Global Gathering is all about exactly that.

Larry You know, there must have been at some point where you accepted this torch that was being passed on because you, like the other people I've talked to, have a strong

desire to see that his goals are attained or pursued at least. Can you remember when that happened?

Mike That's a good question, and the reason I paused a little bit is because I cannot ever remember from the first time that I sat with John Fetzer that there was anything but a continuum. ... There's, you know, epiphanies, but there was an immediate connection and I don't mean that, you know, say, "Oh wow." But we met, we talked, and we continued the discussion. For a short period of time there was—after the Monday night group ended—there was a bit where we would talk for just a little bit because he was doing a lot of other things. Then that was just a short time and then we went back at it. So while things were being arranged here—to the building—but there was always a continuum. The idea has always been to hold the light. And I guess if you would say epiphany, I can say this, that when John passed over—first of all, when I prepared the Trust—

Larry That was what, 1990?

Mike Yes, 1990. In fact, I've shared this story not too many times but I'll share it—and that was when the final Trust was signed upstairs here, on this level in his office. There was a big window, gigantic window behind his desk. And when he finally signed it, the last part of that document, and there were many witnesses there, there was this humongous crash. I guess it was the window. Now I was startled. I thought it was lightning or I thought a tree burst into air, and no one else moved—I was startled—and John looked at me and said, "The hierarchy agrees with us."

Larry But there was no bird or—

Mike No bird, no nothing, just a crash and nobody else even blinked.

Larry Oh, they didn't hear it?

Mike I don't know. Nobody blinked, nobody looked up, nobody looked around. John just looked at me and I looked over, he was to my right and he just looked at me and he said, "The hierarchy agrees with us." I think that if there's epiphany, I think it was with all of us—and Tom would have to say how he feels, but when we became Trustees, a Trustee stands in the shoes of the Testator. If you're going to be a Trustee, you stand in the shoes of the Testator.

And John's belief in the spiritual underpinnings of the John E. Fetzer Institute was something that I would never let slide anywhere, anytime, anyplace, even though there were challenges, believe me, as I'm sure you are aware. Tom would be able also to describe subsequent to John's passing, challenges for everything, just always challenges, but I think every Memorial Trustee had the sense that we were standing in the shoes of John E. Fetzer. We were Trustees, and as a Trustee we were carrying forth the mission and carrying forth the Light.

Someone may say to me, you know, you're an attorney, 40—graduated 1960, how many years ago was that, '64, '65 law school. To me it's not been the job, it's a calling. It's a service. I mean, what you're doing is a service. The dream of John is a calling and it's a service. It's a privilege to be of a service.

I can tell you this, now if I'm going any place, if I'm driving or thinking about something, I'm thinking always about what we're doing. I'm sure John could answer the same. I'm sure Bruce Fetzer would answer the same, and Rob Lehman would answer the same—that we are part of the John E. Fetzer Institute, you're part of the dream, you're part of the mission. It's just part of you. It's just very difficult for you to say—I mean, it's not a job. It's a part of our life.

Looking forward to this Global Gathering. My thinking is, who can we get to the Global Gathering? How many people can we influence? Will, ten years from now, will the message of John, of the Institute, will this be heard and when will it be heard. And when we plant the seeds, and we have positive thinking and when people all over the world will start talking about love and forgiveness. Some will say, “You mean that organization in Kalamazoo, Michigan, started this Global Gathering, this universal discussion?”

Well, just as we got this building and John was sitting behind that desk 20 years ago, it would have seemed impossible—but it's going to happen. That's what John's spirituality is, in my humble opinion. And yeah, the archives need to—there was a process that he went through with a Course in Miracles, question of reincarnation, the channelings, the experiences with 1918 when he was 17 with the elevator experience when he felt that Jesus was with him, to Camp Chesterfield, to all that Judy Skutch has talked to you about... but all of that basically is like—

Larry Did he ever talk about that elevator experience with you?

Mike Yes.

Larry What is your recollection of what happened because there's various—

Mike He just felt that Jesus was with him in an elevator and that elevator was trapped, and he somehow got pulled up.

Larry Did it come in a dream or in the elevator?

Mike I think it came in the elevator, as far as I can remember.

Larry The alternative version was that a few days before this dream he had been playing on the elevator with some kids and it went down and, you know, they could have been killed but they didn't. It hit the bumpers on the bottom, and then he had a dream not long after that in which he just was holding on...

Mike Actually I guess I'd have to—you know what? The only thing that comes to me with respect to the elevator, now that you mention it, was that John always talked about Jesus with him in the elevator. I mean, when I was speaking with John it would have been many years after the event, and to John the fact that the event occurred was the significance—the fact, that the event occurred and that it was Jesus with him—

Larry Had an impact.

Mike And that was the impact, yes. Jesus with him at the elevator that saved his life, saved his life for a purpose, saved his life as he was saved with respect to the end effect of truth. Saved his life not to own the Detroit Tigers and not to become a multi-zillionaire, but saved his life for *what*? For the mission that he was brought into this planet to serve and that's what the John E. Fetzer Institute is—so, you know, it's very difficult to sort of encapsulate. Perhaps that's not a good word. This is one very, very distinct human being. I am constantly amazed at the depth and breadth of John E. Fetzer. Reading—if you look at a Course in Miracles, how he underlined and how he looked at all the things he looked at, the books that he read, the people that he knew.

Larry Did you do a Course in Miracles?

Mike I worked with him on a Course in Miracles, sure. I looked at it, but not that much. I'm not much of a reader, quite frankly. I wish I was but I'm not. Yeah, law books—I find myself probably spending all my time reading law books. But the fact of the matter was that John would be up—and Tom can talk about this—but I remember he'd be up three o'clock in the morning and he'd be reading for two or three hours every day, and that his books were all underscored, underlined with notes. I asked myself, how does anybody get to be this brilliant? He would walk into Chicken Charlie's and look at the menu and say, "Man, great things!" I mean, he's just a beautiful human being that was gifted by the Creator with his dream and his mission.

Tom I have a follow-up question pertaining to—actually you jogged this in my mind. I have to ask this question to you. You know Rob Lehman many times periodically comes back to this notion that we've all done this together before and we're doing it together—and he got that from John, you know, that notion from John, so I wondered if John expressed that to you and particularly if he expressed that to the Monday night group?

Mike Now I don't remember John expressing that to the Monday night group. I know that he had a very strong feeling that the journey that we were on was a journey that is a continuum, and you have to sort of go back in time when you're talking about the Monday night group. This was 1981 basically that it started. Actually it started—Bruce came in '81 and this kind of started in '80 and went to about '85, '85.

Larry There was a Sunday night group before that, wasn't there? Weren't you in that, too?

Mike I don't remember being in that group on Sunday but the thing that you have to remember, this was the embryonic, for want of a better word, time with respect to the journey and this was. The Monday night group was the opportunity for John to speak about things that he could not and would not speak about publicly, and get feedback. In other words, the person that the public knew was John E. Fetzer the owner of the Detroit Tigers, multi-millionaire who owned broadcast stations and etc, etc, etc. He was depicted in the papers, you know, as this business person.

Larry Low profile.

Mike Low profile. No one had any idea who John Fetzer was. I started at the Kalamazoo Country Club in 1969, so by the time I had met John I had been there a number of years; and John was also a member of the country club but he would come there very sort of infrequently, although he lived around the corner—but whenever there was any discussion, and I never ever said to anybody that I knew John Fetzer, even knew him much less represented him; everything was private but no one had any idea who John was. He never spoke of these things because at that time it was almost inappropriate for a multi-millionaire to talk about spiritual matters. I mean, nobody did, quite frankly.

Larry There was only one exception, I think, and that's when he gave the talk about UFOs.

Mike Oh yeah, UFOs, but UFOs would not be in the same line. A UFO would be oddly considered to be open to dispute, but a UFO would be from one physical planet to another physical planet in the universe. In other words, it's just like we were in 1960 and we've got planes that fly jets. This planet over there is 50,000 years ahead of us and they're sending over their UFOs.

Larry Right. In that talk, even though he expressed a belief, he didn't link it with spirituality.

Mike No.

Tom And there had been a lot of sightings in southwest Michigan, so it's probably a safe moment to go ahead and say something because it was in the popular news—UFO sightings in southwest Michigan.

Mike UFOs are physical. It's just a planet out of our galaxy that has the engineering capabilities of sending a spaceship into our galaxy and can land on a planet. That's one thing. To talk about his spiritual belief, that here is a Creator or that he had a miraculous healing when he was 17 years of age and that he was saved on an elevator by Jesus, that he wanted his organization to be spiritually based and then

not to have a particular faith, but to understand that we are all on the planet together with love and trying to live it, this would never be discussed.

Larry He never articulated that.

Mike Never.

Larry Well, he trusted you.

Mike Yeah, and I never discussed it—we were just—never discussed it with anybody, but the dream started to unfold in terms of that the Institute was going to be more than a few files in a filing cabinet. The Foundation was going to become the Institute, but it was the Foundation at the time. The ideas began to generate and the seeds were starting to be planted right there in that office. And then, of course, Judy Skutch had been working with John, working on the seeds that were being planted, so she's been his big boat person and has been with John ever since the 70's. But then when the Monday night group kind of just came about to have these meetings and I don't know—remember—how it even started. But it just started and there we were seven or eight of us every Monday.

Larry But you and John first and then the others, right?

Mike Oh yes, it was John and I for a year sitting in that office talking about—

Larry Did you, Mike, ever recommend people to become part of that group?

Mike No.

Larry You don't know how they were chosen?

Mike I know that Chuck Spence was president of the Fetzer Foundation at that time. Margaret Zolan was his wife's doctor and Frank Henry was her husband. Bruce Fetzer was there, his grand-nephew. Cleora Daily, Carolyn Dailey, and Sister Elizabeth Reis were also selected by John as a part of the group.

Mike This was the opportunity for John to sit with those people that he felt very close to, which I feel very privileged to have been a part of, where there would be friendship and there was no anxiety and there were no boundaries. In other words, so if someone wanted to say something or talk about something, or John wanted to talk about something, regardless of what it might be, whether it was about the Course in Miracles or it was a spiritual matter, whether it was with respect to the course in listening or—it wouldn't matter. There were no boundaries in the sense that somebody would say, "Geez, if I mention this and people think that it's not a good idea, they're going to think I'm some kind of a dope or something. There was never that. It was just hey, throw this out. And then that became my style even, and Tom can attest to this, even with our Trust meetings. I mean, I encouraged an open

door policy. Listen, if you want to say something, say it. If it sticks, good. If it doesn't, okay, let's go onto the next thing. Well, that was the way—so everybody felt comfortable. No one felt as though, you know, if they said something and it didn't jog, that all of a sudden there's going to be some stigma. No. Or laughed at.

Tom What did you do with crystals, Mike? I never heard anything about that.

Mike You never heard about the crystals? John believed very strongly in crystals. I mean, obviously here at the Institute there is that magnificent big crystal.

Tom Otherwise, what happens is people say no, he wasn't into crystals.

Mike Oh yes, he was.

Larry Did he ever consult a pendulum?

Tom He did the pendulum with Bruce.

Mike He did, I remember the pendulum.

Larry It was the evolution.

Mike It was the evolution process and that's the story process that will take this to the next levels, and retaining these stories is so important as a foundation to this because it is so important to retain the things that John talked about so that it would be there for the next generation to see and to let people dream and hold the doors for people to dream in the future with respect to that and not be afraid to dream and to not feel that you can't accomplish the mission, that it's not going to happen.

Larry Did John have a sense of humor?

Mike He sure did.

Tom He had a small town sense of humor.

Mike Oh, he did. He was like—he would just laugh if there was something that came up. I mean, he just absolutely loved to laugh.

Larry And would he rib people about certain things?

Mike No, I didn't really see that. You know, I mean, I think that Tom's characterization—he had a very good gracious, you know, hometown sense of humor.

Larry Yeah, absolutely, yeah. He would have believed that crystal stuff like before Jim showed up on the scene because I don't think Jim was into crystals necessarily that

much. So somebody taught John about crystals. You have any idea who he learned that from?

Mike No, I really don't know. I just know that that was just a part of what he was doing, and for me it was a source of absolute amazement.

Tom So Larry and Mike, I'm sorry to take your time here, but so John always said he didn't have inner experience and his goal at the end was to try to get inner experience, but he had psychic experiences. You know, he had the psychic energy, whether it was dowsing, whether it was crystals, whether it was the pendulum. Things that nine people out of ten could try with their heart's desire and never have any results ever.

Mike It's obviously not unique because God is with us in every way and we can have many experiences. I think that the impetus and the direction that John's spiritual search has put the Institute on is to me the core. If John had not had a deep spiritual search and a search that was commensurate with the well-being of the planet, and not as to a particular pathway but a pathway for all but a good pathway—not that every act would be condoned because there are acts that cannot be condoned—but that dedication to the well-being of man as a creature of God and the fact that the human race is one and that love is the abiding energy and the abiding chorus. John would always say in the final analysis it is unconditional love.

That is the culmination of everything that John talked about. He made that talk at the World Conference saying everything—unconditional love. And the final analysis is unconditional love—so when it's all put together, that's basically the driving force with respect to the Institute.

And now I am not shy about sharing this story. I have shared it, as everybody knows, with many, many people in all areas of life and people that have either been to my office or people that I meet in major corporations and companies around the world. We've even been to Moscow. We've met with Gorbachev. You know, I don't have any shyness about this, and when I spoken to people they say, "There is an organization that has love and forgiveness as its mission? That's impossible."

It's not impossible. It's here. To the best of my knowledge—now the foundation for a better life or values.com that I'm seeing on television that they're talking about, and, basically, pass it on. But to use the terminology and to use the understanding of love and forgiveness which is unconditional love and forgiveness, I mean, it's the only organization this size on the planet—and I don't know if I'm mistaken or not mistaken but I've been told that by many people.

Larry Do you know of any other?

Mike And that to me is the culmination of John's spiritual searches, it has culminated in that, and that's why we're on the team and will be on the team for as long as the good Lord gives us the chance to be on this planet.

Tom Thanks, Mike. You know, I've come to the conclusion, the idea, that this project that we're doing is an important project because you know what happened around 2000. Suddenly the spiritual mission was just put aside and it became a debate. You know, are we about Spirit or are we not about Spirit, and it was a he said/she said. Some said yes and some said no. So my conclusion with that is that the more we can anchor the spiritual aspect of this in stories about John and documents about John, that the anchor of John's own—his own personal story—makes it becomes irrefutable.

Mike Oh, what you're saying is absolutely true. I love what you're doing, Tom and Larry and Priscilla, is quite the absolutely essential in respect to the archives because—

Tom And none of it is silly.

Mike No, this is John's story. None of it is silly.

Tom Atlantis isn't silly, past life isn't silly, because what it demonstrates is the existence of the spiritual world to John, how much of a reality that was to John. It demonstrates that in actual stories, actual evidence. You know, we can provide a body of evidence that this spiritual world was the real world to John.

Mike Well it's the—it is that and it goes further—that the spiritual world is a real world to all of us.

Tom Yeah, you know what I'm saying? I mean, for me it's not just because Mike Gergely says so. It's not just because Tom Beaver says so. It's because John Fetzer said so and we can damn well prove it. So who can refute that?

Mike No, that's exactly true. And Jim had a lot of—said a lot of things, you know, as his channelings—in the final analysis, the proof is in the pudding and when you hear John's words and how he lived, you know, a very simple life. You lived with him for six years. You know the man almost better than anybody. The last part of his life his life was consumed with one idea, and that idea was to search—and that when he came into this physical existence, he came here with a mission, and that mission was to uplift humanity towards the Creator. And once man is uplifted towards the Creator and recognizes the oneness then, in fact, love will prevail and then the planet will go and not be a planet of hatred and violence and fear, but a planet of love. And, very interesting, by the way—I'm not sure if, Larry, if you're aware of but—don't mean to use that terminology, but with the Fetzer Franklin Fund there is experimentation which is beyond just discussion and fiction but a reality, that indeed between all human beings there is actually a physical connection and—

Larry Like we're one organism?

Mike It's almost like a string. Wasn't that right, Tom? What was that—

Tom Quantum physics, quantum mechanics gets at the ineffable at first, I mean, but in the end there are quantum effects that scientists are now looking at on a larger level meaning between people, between people and people, people and animals, people and plants, plants and plants. You know, between all life that there are these, they call them quantum effects, but you can also call it spiritual connection.

Mike Yeah, it's—what they're saying is that there will be a time that will come in the future when—

Tom Yes, sort of a conventional thing—

Mike Just as we can look at—Tom is in Oregon and we're talking to him. You think 50 years ago anybody would have thought we could have talked to Tom in Oregon? He would say are you crazy? Get this kid out of here.

Tom Everybody knows the Earth goes around the Sun but, you know, 600 years ago you'd get killed for saying that.

Mike Yeah. Now the point of the matter is well, 100 years from now we'll be able to see that there is a natural—there is an energy connection to all of us on this planet. Well that's—the Fetzer Franklin Fund is looking at that and that is a reality that, you know, some day may come up. But what John was saying was that that is a reality for us to recognize now as human beings that there is, in fact, that connection—so that we are all, you know, here we are all together, you know, on this physical planet, but it is one element of life. You know, like I would say to John—we were talking about vibrational patterns and he said, “Well, turn on your television.” You turn from one station to the next station. It's the same television, but you're on different frequencies—he said, “That's the way it is.” He said, “There's different vibrations.” What does it take to pick up the telephone and call the other side? I said, “Okay.” You know, but that is how strongly John believed in the eternal and when for example, and there's parts in there that talk about the physical body and how we have so many billions of cells. I mean, how does our hair grow? To me this is like beyond one's ability to think and—

Larry We all understand.

Mike Yeah, but the thing that John does and still does is by his search is opens one's eyes to those questions and when one opens those eyes to those questions, then the whole notion of who we are as humans really starts to unfold and we look at the planet today. This planet needs love and forgiveness and to replace violence more than it's ever needed to do in its existence. When we see what's going on in the world—

and so the Global Gathering could not be at a more important time, quite frankly. And so, you know, what's going on is it's exactly what John feels the Institute needs to do. So I feel he's with us every day and I feel it all the time.

Larry Well, I think this has been just wonderful.

Mike I'm not sure if I've been any help.

Larry Oh yes, you have.

Mike I wish I had more information I could give you.

Larry Well, you've given quite a lot. I mean, you know, this is based on your own experience and your memory of things that happened 30 years ago. Very good, I'd say.

Mike Yeah, it's a journey that we're all on.

Tom Just your interview helps, Mike.

Mike So the bottom line though, when you come to the whole situation, is very—is simply that when it's all put together, I've said this a dozen times here—is that the culmination of it is John's belief in the fact that this Institute is proceeding to make the world a better place and bring mankind together with the unconditional love that John believed was the creative force and the reason he came into this existence.

Larry Well, you said a lot. So I want to thank you Mike. This was very important.